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IPLA P.A. 3580 WILSHIRE BLVD. 17TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90010			COLAN, GIOVANNA B	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/596,913	KIM, SUN-KWON	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	GIOVANNA COLAN	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 June 2006.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 28 June 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/28/2006</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant's preliminary amendment filed on 06/28/2006.
2. Claims 1 – 35 are pending. Claims 36 – 37 were cancelled. No claims were added.
3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) was submitted on 06/28/2006. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Specification

4. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT.
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC.
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).

- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A “Sequence Listing” is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required “Sequence Listing” is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

5. Claim 28 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 28 recites “...according to claim wherein...”. (For purposes of examination, claim 28 has been interpreted as to be dependent from claim 27). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jiong Wu (Wu hereinafter) (WO 99/23581).

Regarding Claim 1, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet so that a program executed on a computer systematically collecting access routes of information resources on Internet and provides a text-based information searching environment, the method comprising:

- (a) forming a search index node in a hierarchical tree structure in a storage medium of the computer according to a request of a user (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);
- (b) receiving basic search information including an access route and a name of an Internet information resource loaded by a user using a web browser (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, “document number” and “content”; Wu), and a selection of a search index node to be linked with the basic search information from the user (Page 7, lines 21 – 27, Wu), and then configuring and storing an information node in linkage with the search index node selected by the user on the basis of the basic search information (Page 8, lines 7 – 17, Wu);
- (c) providing a text search window to the user (Fig. 5, item 53, Wu), receiving a hierarchical information node access route distinguished by a search event identifier through the search window (Fig. 5, item 53, and Page 11, lines 14 – 17, Wu), outputting a name list of search index nodes and/or information nodes in a hierarchy corresponding to an input order of the identifier when there is an input of the identifier (Page 11, lines 32 – 38, and Page 12, lines 1 – 3, Wu), receiving a selection of the user for a node name included in the name list (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, Wu) and then adding

the selected node name to the identifier so that the access route to the information node is hierarchically extended step by step (Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu); and

(d) when an access route to a target information node is settled (Page 17, lines 3 – 12, Wu), extracting an access route of an Internet information resource corresponding to the corresponding information node, obtaining a target Internet information resource through Internet with the use of the extracted access route, and then outputting the target Internet information resource to the user (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Regarding Claim 2, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the search index node is composed of a file folder with a name designated by the user (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, Wu).

Regarding Claim 3, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the information node is composed of a file capable of extracting information about a name and an access route (URL: Uniform Resource Locator) of the information resource on Internet (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, Wu).

Regarding Claim 5, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the

step (b), the information node file is stored in a search index folder selected by the user (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu).

Regarding Claim 6, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the hierarchical information node access route has a format in which at least one node name with a search event identifier as a prefix is connected in series (Page 7, lines 12 – 20, Wu).

Regarding Claim 7, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (c), the process of outputting the node name list according to the input of the search identifier and the process of extending the information node access route according to the selection of a name of a node included in the list are repeated in a cycle until a target information node is output in the node name list (Page 17, lines 4 – 12, Wu).

Regarding Claim 8, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (d), the settlement of an access route to the target information node is accomplished by means of a selection of the target information node output in the node name list (Page 17, lines 3 – 12, Wu).

Regarding Claim 9, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (c), when the user inputs a text syllable by syllable in the state that the node name list is output, a node selection curser is automatically moved to a node name having the input text (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, and Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu).

Regarding Claim 10, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (c), when the user manipulates a predetermined node name selection key prepared on a keyboard in the state that the node selection curser is moved to a predetermined node name, the node name is added to the search event identifier so as to extend the information node access route by one step (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, and Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu).

Regarding Claim 11, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the hierarchical information node access route has a format in which names of search index nodes, each having a search event identifier as a prefix, are connected repeatedly (Fig. 2, Wu).

Regarding Claim 12, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (d), the process of outputting the target Internet information resource is any of outputting a web page through the web browser, regenerating a moving picture media by means of a moving picture regenerator whose execution route is registered in the web browser, regenerating a music by means of a music regenerator whose execution route is registered in the web browser, and outputting a corresponding file by means of an application program whose execution route is registered in an operation system (Fig. 5, items 54, 56, and 58, Wu).

Regarding Claim 13, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step a brief description about the Internet information resource is further input from the user as the basic search information to configure the information node (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, Wu).

Regarding Claim 14, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the storage medium is a relational database, and wherein the search index node and the information node are respectively implemented as records in a node structure table provided in the relational database (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 15, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the node structure table includes fields for recording a record-specific identification code (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu); a node a node identification code for distinguishing a search index node and an information an identification code of a hierarchy to which a node belongs in the hierarchical tree structure (Fig. 3, items 40, and 42, Wu); a reference code for a parent node of each node in the hierarchical tree structure (Fig. 3, items 44, Wu); and an access route to an Internet information resource (Fig. 3, item 46: “Title/URL”, Wu).

Regarding Claim 16, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the step (a) includes:

(a1) receiving a selection of a name and a parent search index node of a search index node to be formed from the user (Page 7, lines 12 – 19, Wu); and
(a2) forming a search index node in a database as a record form by recording a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification code designated as a search index node; and a reference node of the selected parent search index node, in corresponding fields of the node structure table (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 17, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the records corresponding to the search index node includes a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification code ; and a parent node reference code (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 18, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the node structure table further includes a field for recording a brief description of each node, wherein the step (a1) further receives a brief description of the search index node, and wherein the step (a2) further records the brief description in the corresponding field (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 19, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the step (b) includes:

(b1) receiving the basic search information including an access route and a name of an Internet information resource loaded by the user using the web browser and a selection of a search index node to which the basic search information is linked in a parent-child relation, from the user (Page 7, lines 12 – 19, Wu); and

(b2) forming a record-type information node in a database by recording a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification code designated as an information node; a reference node of the selected parent search index node; and an access route to the Internet information resource, in corresponding fields of the node structure table (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 20, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the record corresponding to the information node includes a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification node; a parent node reference code; and an Internet information resource access route (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 21, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein the node structure table further includes a field for recording a brief description of each node, wherein the step (b1) further receives a brief description of the information node; and wherein the step (b2) further records the brief description in the corresponding field (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 22, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet,

wherein, in the step (c), the name list is made by reading records of a search index node and/or an information node linked as a child to the search index node belonging to the hierarchy according to the input order of the identifier input by the user and corresponding to a node name extended just before, extracting a node name from the read record, and outputting the node name in a list (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Regarding Claim 23, Wu discloses a method for systematically collecting and searching for an access route of an information resource on Internet, wherein, in the step (d), the access route to the Internet information resource is extracted from the read record (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Regarding Claim 24, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person through a web server by a program installed on a computer in linkage with the web server, the method comprising:

(a) forming a search index node in a hierarchical tree structure in a storage medium of the computer according to a request of a user with a designated name (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);

(b) receiving basic search information including an access route and a name of an Internet information resource loaded by the user using a web browser (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, “document number” and “content”; Wu), and a selection of a search index node to be linked on the basis the basic search information from the user (Page 7, lines 21 – 27, Wu), configuring an information with the basic search information, and then storing

the information node in linkage with the search index node selected by the user (Page 8, lines 7 – 17, Wu);

(c) uploading a node structure including a search index node and an information node, constructed in a hierarchical tree structure, into a dedicated storage area distinguishable by means of a user ID of the web server according to an upload request of the user (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);

(d) requesting and receiving a user ID list possessing the node structure uploaded in the web server to/from the web server according to a request of a user, outputting the user ID list to the user, and receiving a selection of the user about a predetermined ID included in the ID list so that a node structure that is a search target of the information node is specified (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);

(e) providing a text search window to the user (Fig. 5, item 53, Wu), and receiving a server-side hierarchical information node access route distinguished by a search event identifier through the search window, wherein, when there is an input of an identifier, the step (e) requests the web server with a name list of a child search index node and/or information node linked to a parent search index node prior to the input of the identifier and then stands by, and wherein, when the web server generates and transmits the requested name list in the node structure specified in the step (d) (Fig. 5, item 53, and Page 11, lines 14 – 17, Wu), the step (e) transmits the name list to the user (Page 11, lines 32 – 38, and Page 12, lines 1 – 3, Wu), then receives a selection of the user about a predetermined node name included in the name list (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, Wu), and adds the selected node name to the identifier so that a server-side

access route of the information node is hierarchically extended step by step (Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu); and

(f) when an access route to a target information node is settled (Page 17, lines 3 – 12, Wu), extracting an access route of an Internet information resource from the corresponding information node, obtaining a target Internet information resource through Internet with the use of the extracted access route, and then outputting the target Internet information resource to the user (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Regarding Claim 25, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person, wherein, in the step (a), the search index node is composed of a folder having a name designated by the user (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, Wu).

Regarding Claim 26, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person, wherein, in the step (b), the information node is a file capable of extracting information about a name and URL of the information resource on Internet (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, Wu).

Regarding Claim 27, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person, wherein, in the step (b), the information node file is stored in a search index folder selected by the user (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu).

Regarding Claim 28, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person wherein the hierarchical information node access route has a format in which at least one node name having a search event identifier as a prefix is connected in series (Page 7, lines 12 – 20, Wu).

Regarding Claim 29, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person through a web server by a program installed on a computer in linkage with the web server, the method comprising:

- (a) forming a search index node in a hierarchical tree structure in a storage medium of the computer according to a request of a user with a name of the search index node being designated (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);
- (b) receiving basic search information including an access route and a name of an Internet information resource loaded by the user using a web browser (Page 7, lines 24 – 34, “document number” and “content”; Wu), and a selection of a search index node to be linked on the basis the basic search information from the user (Page 7, lines 21 – 27, Wu), configuring an information with the basic search information, and then storing the information node in linkage with the search index node selected by the user (Page 8, lines 7 – 17, Wu);
- (c) reading a node structure including a search index node and an information node recorded in the node structure table according to an upload request of the user, and uploading the node structure including into a database in linkage with the web

server by means of identification of a user ID (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);

(d) requesting and receiving a user ID list possessing the node structure uploaded in the web server to/from the web server according to a request of a user, outputting the user ID list to the user, and receiving a selection of the user about a predetermined ID included in the ID list so that a node structure that is a search target of the information node is specified (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu);

(e) providing a text search window to the user (Fig. 5, item 53, Wu), and receiving a server-side hierarchical information node access route distinguished by a search event identifier through the search window, wherein, when there is an input of an identifier, the step (e) requests the web server with a child search index node and/or an information node linked to a parent search index node prior to the input of the identifier and then stands by (Fig. 5, item 53, and Page 11, lines 14 – 17, Wu), and wherein, when the web server reads and transmits records of a requested node in the node structure specified in the step (d), the step (e) extracts a name list of the node from the transmitted records, outputs the name list to the user (Page 11, lines 32 – 38, and Page 12, lines 1 – 3, Wu), receives a selection of the user about a predetermined node name included in the name list (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, Wu), and adds the selected node name to the identifier so that a server-side access route of the information node is hierarchically extended step by step (Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu); and

(f) when an access route to a target information node is settled (Page 17, lines 3 – 12, Wu), extracting an access route of an Internet information resource included in the

corresponding information node with reference to information of the transmitted records, obtaining a target Internet information resource through Internet with the use of the extracted access route, and then outputting the target Internet information resource to the user (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Regarding Claim 30, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person,

wherein the search index node is composed of a record of the node structure table (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu), and

wherein the step (a) records a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification code designating that the node is a search index node; and a parent node reference code, in a record corresponding to the search index node (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 31, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person,

wherein, in the step (a), a brief description of the search index node is further received from the user (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu), and

wherein the brief description of the node is further recorded in a record corresponding to the search index node (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 32, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person,

wherein the information node is composed of a record of the node structure table (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu), and

wherein the step (b) records a record-specific identification code; a node name; a node identification code designating that the node is an information node; and a parent node reference code, in a record corresponding to the information node (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 33, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person,

wherein, in the step (b), a brief description of the information node is further received from the user (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu), and

wherein the brief description of the node is further recorded in a record corresponding to the information node (Fig. 3, Page 8, lines 22 – 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 34, Wu discloses a method for sharing an access route to an information resource on Internet with another person,

wherein, in the step (c), the node structure includes information about each record for the search index node and the information node (Page 7, lines 20 – 29, “hierarchical structure”, Wu), and

wherein a user ID is endowed to each record and then the record is recorded in a server-side node structure table provided in a database in linkage with the web server (Fig. 3, items 49, 52, and 38, Wu).

Regarding Claim 35, Wu discloses a method for accessing an Internet information resource with reference to a node structure on Internet, which is formed by means of a web server by repeatedly and accumulatively executing the following processes: composing a search index node in a mass storage medium in a hierarchical category structure, composing an information node for various Internet information resources so that the information node includes a name and an access route of each Internet information resource, and then linking the information node to a lower hierarchy of a predetermined search index node, the method comprising:

(a) providing a text search window to a user by means of a web browsing program installed on a computer of the user (Fig. 5, item 53, Wu), and receiving a server-side hierarchical information node access route distinguishable by a search event identifier through the search window by means of the program (Fig. 5, item 53, and Page 11, lines 14 – 17, Wu), wherein, when there is an input of the identifier, the step (a) requests the web server with a name list of a child search index node and/or an information node linked to a parent search index node prior to the input of the identifier and then stands by, and wherein, when the web server generates and transmits the name list requested in the node structure, the step (a) outputs the name list to the user (Page 11, lines 32 – 38, and Page 12, lines 1 – 3, Wu), receives a selection of the user

about a predetermined node name included in the name list (Page 14, lines 38 – 36, Wu), and adds the selected node name to the identifier so that a server-side access route of the information node is hierarchically extended step by step (Page 15, lines 11 – 22, Wu); and

(b) when an access route to a target information node is settled (Page 17, lines 3 – 12, Wu), extracting an access route of an Internet information resource from the corresponding information node, obtaining a target Internet information resource through Internet with the use of the extracted access route, and then outputting the target Internet information resource to the user, by means of the program (Page 17, lines 24 – 32, Wu).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiong Wu (Wu hereinafter) (WO 99/23581) in view of David Reyna (Reyna hereinafter) (US 2004/0160464).

Regarding Claim 4, Wu discloses all the limitations as discussed above. However, Wu does not expressly disclose that the hierarchical tree structure is output to the user as a graphic interface. On the other hand, Reyna discloses a hierarchical tree structure that is output to the user as a graphic interface (Fig. 7, and [0049], Reyna). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wu by incorporating the step of outputting to the user as a graphic interface, in the same conventional manner as disclosed by Reyna. Skilled artisan would have found it motivated to use such a modification in order to provide a graphical representation to interactively edit trees (see: [0004], Reyna).

Points of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GIOVANNA COLAN whose telephone number is (571)272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan
Examiner
Art Unit 2162
March 24, 2009
/John Breene/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2162